

February 10, 2020

Council Packet Add On

LU20-001

**ADDITIONAL
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

From: Linden Jordan
To: Town Planner
Subject: Homelessshelter
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2020 10:01:59 AM

As a resident of Marblemount, I am very supportive of the providing of beds for the homeless during the winter months. I believe this will also benefit our homeless people who can come there to sleep out of the cold. I am also very pleased to see one of the churches open up to this particular mission. I applaud Rev. Riley for his stepping up to fill a need in our community.

Linden Jordan
60793 Dexter Lane
Marblemount, WA 98267

From: Claire Oppy
To: Town Planner
Subject: LU20-001 overnight shelter public comments
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2020 9:39:51 PM

I'm writing to voice my strong support for the cold-weather overnight shelter in Concrete. It is unconscionable to allow people to suffer in the cold when others are willing to lend a helping hand. Any one of us could find ourselves in their place one day.

Sincerely,
Claire McIlvain

From: wayne.conrad
To: Town Planner
Subject: Homeless shelter
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2020 1:33:24 PM

I am against this and every way. I believe it to be a scheme and one person with any intellect can read it application and see right through it. The administrators of this 5013 with grant funding will be the benefactors more than any homeless I don't see this as any good use of the taxpayers money.... if it were needed and I don't believe for a minute it is, it would be a noble gesture however and either case it would be a gesture with detrimental consequences to the community. There's already solutions for anybody in need. if you are the planner I thank you for the help you been to me but...if I were not in the hospital for the last six months I would be at on a plane and there

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Bob Hopfield
To: Town Planner
Subject: Proposed Cold Weather Shelter
Date: Friday, February 07, 2020 6:47:17 AM

I am writing you with my thoughts on the proposed cold weather shelter/homeless shelter.

I am a local business owner, I own and operate a campground in Marblemount. I am Marblemount's Fire Battalion Chief, and I have worked for our local road crew for over 15 years. I am very in touch with the lives in our communities, and I do not sit at a desk and look at numbers, I actually see what is going on.

We absolutely do NOT have a need for a cold weather/homeless shelter. We don't have a homeless problem in eastern Skagit, we have a drug use problem.

I fear that the people that do not support this, will be scoffed and scored and threatened by those who support this shelter. I am speaking on behalf of people that are not comfortable speaking publicly about how they do not support this shelter.

Concerns – what if people don't meet the screening criteria – where will they go? How do they get back to where they came from? Bus passes, transportation available? I foresee that there will be more people living in the woods, streets and parks. When the shelter is not open, people are going to be a public nuisance.

The impact on the surrounding residential neighborhood is going to be huge and very negative. Concrete does not have the sanitation crews to deal with the biohazards, the Skagit valley doesn't have the amount of law enforcement within close response time to deal with the legal problems.

Look at other shelters, and evaluate the amount of trouble is within the surrounding area. It is hard to face the facts of this – this isn't the 'down on their luck' poor people, it is a whole new era, it's mostly drug addicts and mentally unstable people. Which again leads to the problem that there are not resources available in this area such as counseling and treatment. These people give the appearance of being homeless, but they live in shacks, trailers, and people's couches, they are not homeless.

I deal with all our citizenry on a daily basis on the highway 20 corridor. There really is not much of homelessness in eastern Skagit. Those who are homeless are passing through the area.

The problem we have up here is different than homelessness. There is a lot of people that live in poverty or below poverty, be it drug use, mental health issues, personal choice, but it really isn't a homeless problem. If you go through with this shelter on top of the issues I've outlined, it will attract them to the area, there is absolutely no services up here, it will tax our law enforcement and EMS which is already overly busy for our small little area.

Fear in the neighborhood for hepatitis, tuberculosis, communicable diseases as well as many other airborne and blood born pathogens and again, -- over task our fire/EMS.

It is a warm fuzzy feeling that they are trying to do, but it is really unknown if we need this. Even the church doesn't know if there is a need. They lack the ability to do the internal policing that is required for this. There is too much of an 'unknown'. When there is someone that needs to go to the friendship house there is services in the surrounding area. These services are not available in the concrete area, so what is the point of having the homeless here?

I really see a lot of everything that occurs on the hwy 20 corridor from Newhalem to Sedro Woolley, seeing abandoned vehicles, the very few living in their vehicles, there really are not a large number of these, because services they need are not available. Once you bring in a shelter, this number will rise, we will have shelter hoppers, bringing homeless to the area.

The root of this -- a problem is going to be created because of this, and Concrete does not have the ability to manage a problem once it is here.

This is being sold as a 'cold' weather shelter. We know that this is going to be turned into a homeless shelter. Last year when Skagit DEM funded a temporary cold weather shelter at the concrete fire department - the number of people that utilized it overnight was NONE!

If you would like to speak with me further on this, or any other thoughts, or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time, and attention to this matter.

Bob Hopfield

From: George Wenzinger
To: Town Planner
Subject: Fwd: Homeless shelter input
Date: Friday, February 07, 2020 3:35:38 PM

From: George Wenzinger <zinger982@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020, 3:26 PM
To: townplanner@concretea.gov
Subject: Homeless shelter input

Good afternoon,

I was hesitant to comment about this, because it becomes part of the public record and I am concerned about damage to my property. After considering it I feel compelled to forward my views. Forgive me in advance for any spellings or grammatical errors as I rarely email.

After 40 years of living in major west coast cities to include Long Beach, the San Francisco bay area, Portland and Bellingham I have some experience interacting with homeless people. I have found that homelessness is usually due to one of 4 main reasons:

- 1 Drug or alcohol addiction/abuse
- 2 Mental illness
- 3 Lifestyle choices
- 4 hardships beyond the person's control.

The shelter application seems only considers the 4th reason, the one we all sympathize with. These people are the ones who can truly benefit from a shelter, unfortunately they (in my experience) a small minority of the people who would be attracted to the town.

This shelter would be one of only 2 in the entire county drawing people who are not here now. The first three groups by their nature are not inclined to follow the rules set up for this shelter. The good intentions of the church members will not stop them from coming or staying in town.

This could create unfunded liabilities for the town:

- More police officers, ie more cost
- Cleaning up main street, ie more cost
- Cleaning the bathrooms, ie more cost

These are just the tip of the iceberg of what this could cost.

The church and the county should be compelled to have a substantial amount of money set aside to keep the citizens of Concrete for paying for their project.

I am sure they don't. This is a quick, rough outline of my concerns.

Thank You

George Wenzinger
P.O. Box 921
Concrete WA 98237

**BUILDING
INSPECTOR
REVIEW**

From: Town Planner
To: Marianne Manville-Ailles
Subject: Overnight Shelter Comments from Doug Ammot
Date: Saturday, February 08, 2020 10:24:30 AM

Hi Marianne,

I don't think there is any problem with the conditional use designation for the emergency shelter.

However, the two bathrooms are not ADA compliant, nor is the entry door. But other than that, I don't see any safety concerns other than perhaps they should convert all ungrounded outlets to gfcis. It may be a good idea to get an L&I inspection of the electrical system. Smoke detectors are not hardwired in series, so they can not communicate with one another in the event of a fire. This is something that could easily be fixed by an electrician.

Do you want me to email you a version of this?

Doug

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
[Get Outlook for Android](#)